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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM
OPENS MAY SHOW TODAY

The 52nd May Show opened to the public today at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The exhibition of work by artists and craftsmen of the Western Reserve will be shown until June 13.

The exhibition features 277 objects by 244 artists and craftsmen of the Western Reserve. It was selected by a panel of museum staff members, marking a change from earlier procedure under which an out-of-town jury assembled the exhibition. Jurors included Edward B. Henning, curator of contemporary art; Sherman E. Lee, director; and Louise S. Richards, curator of prints and drawings, who judged paintings, sculpture, graphic arts, etc. A similar panel for ceramics, textiles, metalwork, etc. included Barry Bradley, assistant in the department of Extension Exhibitions; Henry H. Hawley, curator of post-renaissance decorative arts; and Dr. Lee.

Special awards for merit went to five artists. Edwin Mieczkowski, a painting instructor at the Cleveland Institute of Art, will receive \$500 for his subtle geometric painting, Enigma Variations No. 6. That's That, Mark Sherer's stained canvas, also won a \$500 award. The painting awards have been made possible by a grant from Mr. and Mrs. William C. Treuhaft. A graphics award of \$1,000 went to Karen Eubel for Vibration and Untitled No. 13, a pair of delicately tinted drawings. Athena Tacha's model for a set of staircase-sculptures won the sculpture award for \$1,000.

James E. Mazurkewicz was given the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship for two objects, a multi-color gold necklace and a sterling silver cocktail pitcher and stirrer. The necklace won a cash award of \$1,000 as well.

In addition to the cash and special merit awards, the panel cited 23 artists for special mention.

Dr. Lee, in commenting on the exhibition, summarized the panel's consensus by saying:

"On the whole, we feel the exhibition to be a just, qualitatively good, and broadly representative selection of the creative art of the Western Reserve." He added further:

"The painting section seems to us particularly strong and varied--more so than in our memories of past shows..." and concluded his catalog introduction by saying:

"Our thanks go to all--artists, staff and public--for their patience and good will during 1970. I know that many look with both expectation and curiosity, perhaps some with suspicion, at what this new May Show may be. Perhaps we could reasonably and respectfully ask that the visitor look almost as long and hard as did the juries before passing judgement--and then recognize that this judgement is but one of many to follow as the six-week showing continues. If we have sinned in haste, then we shall repent at leisure."

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